

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1922.

# CARAGANA

The Great Hedge Plant

For the Northwest

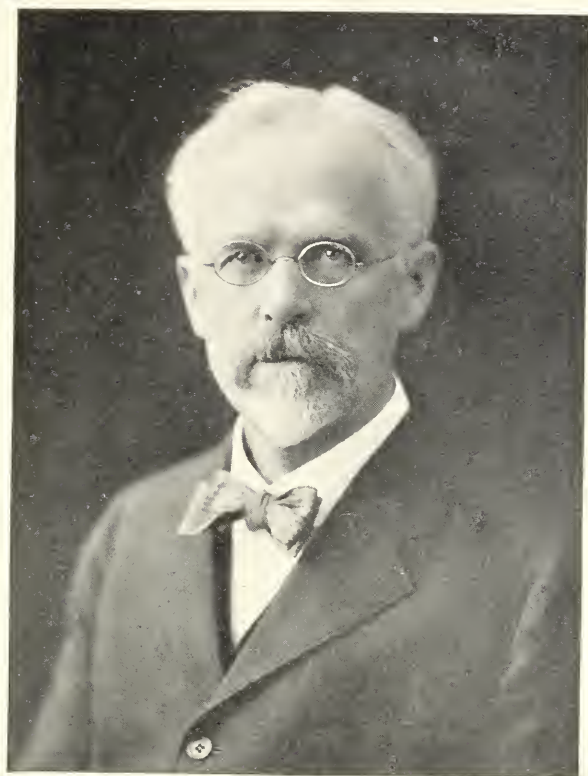
*Its Story, told by*

Professor N. E. Hansen

Siberian Explorer and Investigator

*for the*

United States Government



PROFESSOR HANSEN

Office of South Dakota State Horticultural Society,  
Brookings, S. D., February 2, 1922.

E. C. Hilborn, Secretary,  
Northwest Nursery Company,  
Valley City, North Dakota.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor, the Caragana is the best plant for hedges, low windbreaks and snow-catches for the entire prairie Northwest, extending far north into Canada, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. It is recognized by the Canadian Government as the best hedge plant for the most exposed situations on the prairies. Caragana arborescens is the full name, the term "arborescens" referring to the tree-like habit of the plant. It is not really a tree but a tall shrub which retains its limbs from the ground up and reaches a height of about twenty feet.

In 1897, as Agricultural Explorer for the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., I imported about three hundred and fifty pounds of Caragana Arborescens seed from Russia. This was not the first importation but perhaps the largest ever made. At any rate this seed served a good purpose in introducing the plant very extensively. Throughout European Russia it is a favorite ornamental hedge plant for the home grounds. In government forestry plantations on the Russian steppes, it is used as a nurse tree, or rather, bush, because it endures severe drought. The maximum height of the untrimmed Caragana hedges I observed in Russia was fifteen to twenty feet, but the usual height of trimmed hedges was about one-third of this.

Caragana plants should be set about two feet apart for a hedge. For single specimens on the lawn the Caragana should be found on every lawn, owing to its beautiful green foliage, beautiful feathery leaves much like a Locust and the wealth of abundant yellow blossoms. The tree does not do so well farther south where the summer heat is extreme.

Yours truly,

N. E. Hansen

Professor of Horticulture



# CARAGANA—Siberian Pea Tree

The first and most important Hedge to plant in the Northwest.

We have never known a Plant, when once established,  
to die from drought or winter-killing

The Northwest Nursery Company introduced the Caragana to the planters of the northwestern prairies several years ago, to be used as a windbreak, as a snowfence and as an ornamental hedge plant and shrub. Each succeeding year has seen it grow in popularity with the planters. In western Canada where Caragana has been popular for years, there are more of these planted than ever. The Prairie Nurseries of Saskatchewan reports a steadily increasing demand year after year, the farmers buying and planting in lots of 500 and 1000 plants; and the people in the cities planting double row hedges! In Portage LaPrairie, a beautiful City in Manitoba, the writer saw an entire block, composed of fashionable residences, completely surrounded with closely clipped Caragana hedges. This plant thrives equally as well in the residential lots of Duluth and Great Falls.

## A few striking Features are responsible for the growing Popularity of this remarkable Hedge Plant

**IT IS EASY TO TRANSPLANT**—It will stand unusual abuse in handling, yet thrive when planted. While it responds to good cultivation, giving results in better color and lustre—yet if neglected will hang on to life, refusing to be dried out or starved out.

**IT BELONGS TO THE LEGUMES**, or soil building plants, from which come alfalfa and clover—hence the garden will thrive clear up to the very edge of a Caragana Hedge. It is the only hedge adapted to screen the garden.

**IT IS BEAUTIFUL IN THE SPRING TIME**, when it becomes covered with a wealth of golden, sweet pea-shaped blossoms. the early summer foliage is one of remarkable beauty of soft, light green, feathery plumage.

**THE CARAGANA HAS A VERY ATTRACTIVE BRONZE OR OLD-GOLD COLOR**—both on the wood as well as on the foliage. This color remains on the bark throughout the winter and is never dull.

The **CARAGANA RESPONDS TO TRIMMING** and if planted close together and trimmed back will become a fine soft ornamental hedge, easily held in check by occasional trimming.

But the **GREATEST VALUE OF THIS PLANT LIES IN ITS USE FOR THE SHELTER BELT OF THE PRAIRIE FARM HOME**. A double row of these plants, branching directly from the ground, becomes a perfect fence to stop surface winds and snow. For this purpose it should never be trimmed. Its width will keep equal to its height—it will never out-grow itself but improve year by year becoming a beautiful, solid mass of luxuriant foliage, a delight and satisfaction in spring, summer and winter.



A Great Snow-fence at Portage LaPrairie, Manitoba  
Photograph of an Untrimmed Hedge, 18 ft. High and 18 ft. Wide

# THE WEIGHT OF AUTHORITY

## NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

POST ADDRESS

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, NORTH DAKOTA

A. F. YEAGER  
HORTICULTURIST

Mr. E. C. Hilborn,  
Manager of Northwest Nursery,  
Valley City, N. D.

July 26, 1920.

Dear Sir:

I am much pleased to hear that you are putting the Siberian Pea Tree (*Caragana arborescens*) on the market. This is one of the best, if not the very best shrub to withstand drought, cold, and alkali.

It is not a tree to be used for shade but as a hedge, snow trap or outside row for shelter belts it is supreme. Its extreme height will not exceed 25 feet hence it will not grow away from the ground like the willow. The best protected garden I know of on the plains is surrounded by an unpruned hedge of this plant. As a clipped hedge for city planting or as a shrub for the lawn it is very desirable. The bright green foliage is attractive all summer, the yellow blossoms add to its attractiveness in the spring, and during the winter its stems do not present so rough an appearance as many shrubs.

You are doing a real service in North Dakota in disseminating this plant.

Very truly yours,  
A. F. YEAGER  
*Horticulturist.*

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CANADA FORESTRY BRANCH

NURSERY STATION  
INDIAN HEAD, SASK.

T. A. Torgeson, Manager,  
Prairie Nurseries Ltd.  
Estevan, Sask.

April 6, 1922.

Dear Mr. Torgeson:

I have your letter of the 4th instant in connection with the use of *Caragana* for prairie planting. Without doubt the *Caragana Arborescens* is one of the most generally useful plants for hedge purposes and low windbreaks that can be used on the prairies. So far as I know this shrub was first introduced into Western Canada by the Mennonites who settled in Manitoba in the early eighties. It is hardy in every section of the prairie regions.

There is nothing which can beat the *Caragana* for a hedge or low windbreak to protect vegetable gardens. It is particularly useful as a trimmed hedge and can be kept at any height from four feet up. We believe that the *Caragana* will in the very near future be used very extensively for windbreaks to counteract soil drifting. For such purposes we believe it is well adapted as it is not easily injured by stock but will withstand probably more neglect than most other broadleaved varieties and if given a fair show it will reach a very considerable height, namely, 15 to 20 feet, and if cut back once or twice while young will make a very thick dense growth.

*Caragana* is also useful as ornamental specimens.

Your obedient servant,  
NORMAN M. ROSS,  
*Chief of Tree Planting Division.*





## CARAGANA—The Great Hedge Plant for the Northwest

1. Introduced from the cold Steppes of Siberia by Professor N. E. HANSEN, the Father of the Horticulture of the Northwest;
2. Recommended by Prof. HANSEN and other Plant Experts of the Northwest as the BEST Hedge Plant for this section;
3. It is *absolutely* HARDY.
4. Endures extreme drought without injury;
5. Easy to transplant; always *grows*.
6. Makes an ideal Snow-fence and Wind-break;
7. Can be clipped into formal hedge-form and held at any desired height;
8. Combines Beauty with Utility;
9. The Foliage is rich, light green;
10. The Bark is golden and beautiful in winter;
11. The Roots *do not* exhaust the soil.

These are *some* of the good points about CARAGANA stated by Plant Experts of the Northwest quoted on other pages and whose *only* interest is to serve the public with reliable information.

In the same spirit and in coöperation with Professor HANSEN, CARAGANA was introduced into the Northwest by

**THE NORTHWEST NURSERY COMPANY**  
VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA